

## **Historic, archived document**

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



941  
3-752

U.S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE  
LIBRARY  
MAR 29 1961  
CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

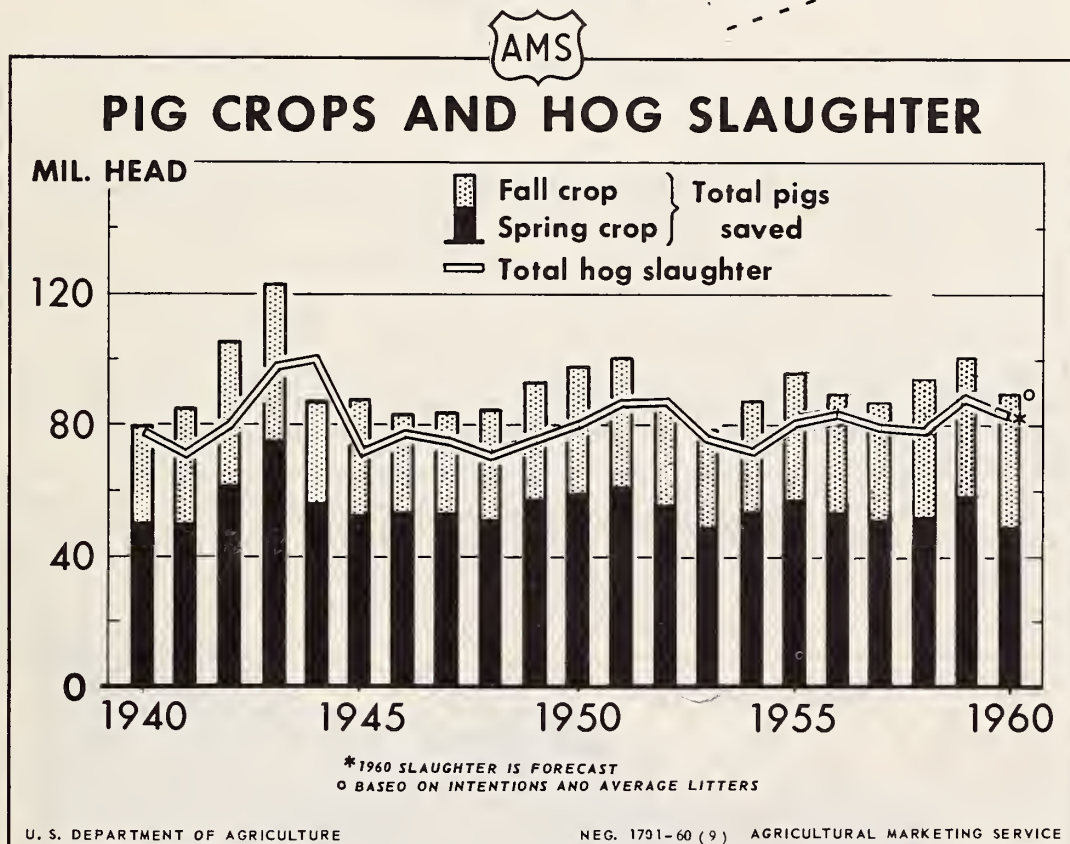
September 1960  
FOR RELEASE  
OCT. 4, A. M.

The

# LIVESTOCK and MEAT SITUATION

LMS-112

In this issue:  
Hogs: Changing Seasonal Patterns  
The Demand for Pork



Hog slaughter this year is considerably smaller than in 1959 because of the sharp reduction in this year's spring pig crop. The 1960 fall crop will likely be down only about 3 percent, as was indicated in June farrowing intentions.

Hog production is apparently turning upward but sizable gains in slaughter are not expected in 1961.

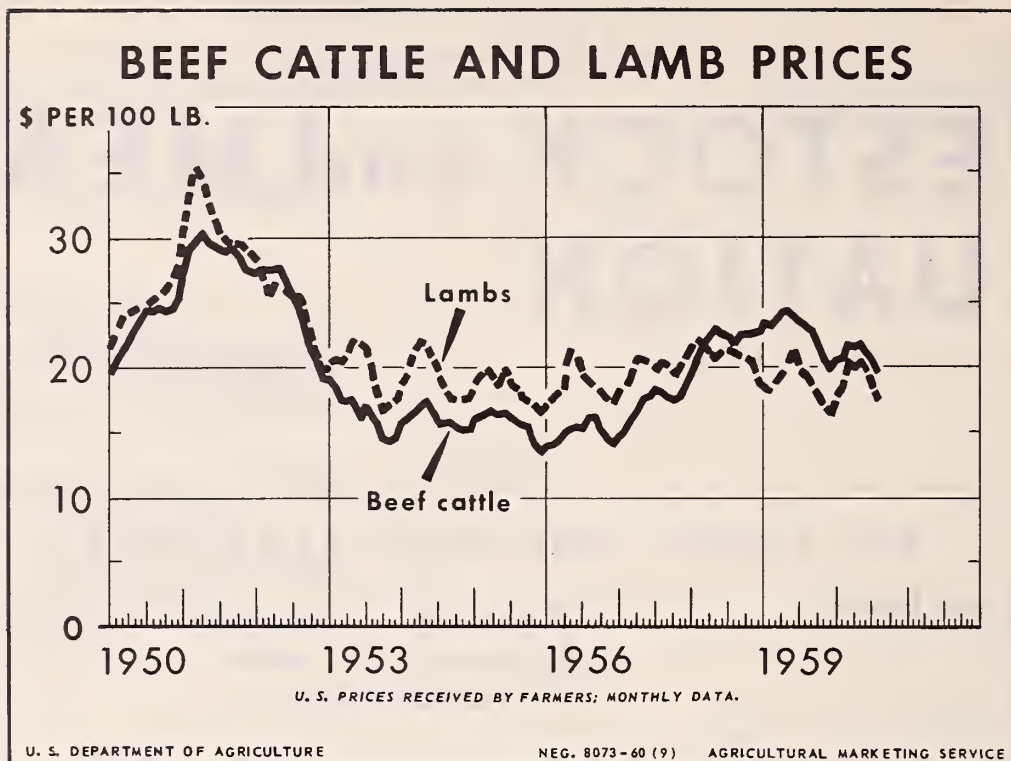
Producers in 10 Corn Belt States plan to increase early spring farrowings 4 percent.

Hog slaughter will continue below year-earlier levels this fall and winter. The prospective reductions in pork supplies will more than offset larger supplies of beef, and hog prices will be above a year earlier.

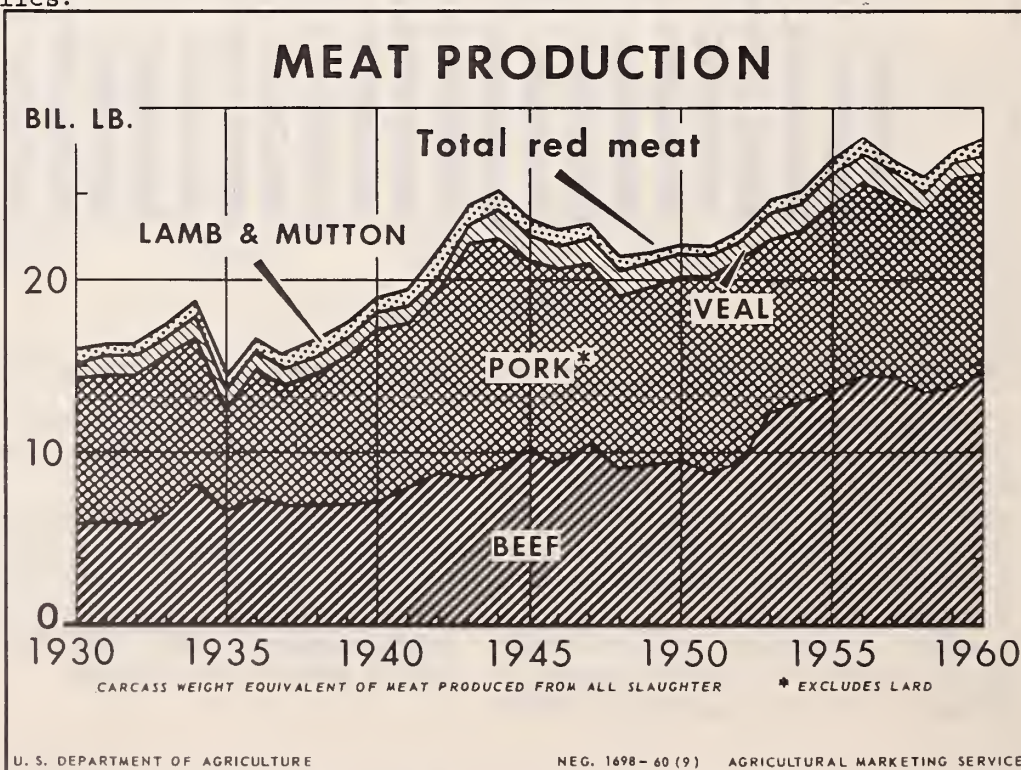
Published bimonthly by

AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Seasonal changes in prices of beef cattle and lambs have been similar much of time since 1950. During this period, however, lamb prices have declined relative to cattle prices despite an uptrend in beef consumption per person and relatively stable lamb supplies.



Beef and pork output were both at cyclical peaks in 1956 and total red meat production set a record of 28.1 billion pounds. Production is currently increasing and will probably set a new high next year. The increase will be largely due to an increase in cattle slaughter.



- - - - -  
 T H E L I V E S T O C K A N D M E A T S I T U A T I O N  
 - - - - -

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, September 28, 1960

CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Summary .....	3
Review and Outlook .....	4
Outlook for Meat at Retail .....	12
Outlook for Sausage Meats .....	14
The Changing Seasonal Patterns of	
Hog Production and Prices .....	16
The Demand for Pork .....	19
List of Tables .....	26
List of Charts .....	27

SUMMARY

Increases in cattle and sheep production during 1960 will result in larger marketings and lower prices this fall than last. Hog slaughter is increasing seasonally but will continue below a year earlier this fall and winter and prices will be higher. Total red meat supplies per person in 1960 probably will be down about a pound from 1959 with a reduction in pork more than offsetting a gain in beef.

The decline in hog production which began late last fall is slowing down and will probably end by mid-1961. This year's spring pig crop was 16 percent smaller than in 1959. Producers in 10 Corn Belt States reported in September that they had reduced early fall farrowings by 7 percent but planned to increase late fall litters 3 percent. They also reported intentions to farrow 4 percent more sows in December-February than last winter. If the entire 1961 spring crop should show an increase, as now seems likely, the downswing in production would be the shortest on record.

Hog slaughter rates picked up in August and prices declined contra-seasonally. Part of this price decline was regained early in September. Hog prices are expected to decline seasonally this fall but will continue well above prices last fall. The trend toward earlier farrowing was interrupted this year and market supplies of 1960 spring pigs will likely reach a peak late in the year.

Prices of hogs will probably continue above a year before through the first half of 1961. Prices in the fall of 1961 will probably be below this fall if the total spring pig crop is up from this year.

On July 1, the number of cattle and calves on feed in 21 States was 4 percent greater than a year earlier. Fed cattle marketings for July-August were a little larger than a year before. The number of well-finished cattle for marketing this fall may be a little larger than last fall. Prices this fall are expected to continue close to current levels but could advance moderately late this year unless grass cattle marketings are unusually large.

Prices of feeder cattle recently have been below year-earlier levels by a greater margin than prices of fed cattle. The supply of young cattle is greater than last year and increasing marketings will probably cause prices of feeders to decline. But the decline is likely to be moderated by fairly good prospects for average feeding returns.

The average price to farmers for lambs in August was \$17.40 per 100 pounds, \$2.00 below a year earlier. Lambs are coming off Western ranges at lighter weights this fall, providing for considerable flexibility in feeding operations. Moreover, generally favorable returns to lamb feeding last year may encourage feeders to place more lambs on feed this fall than last. Hence, sheep and lamb prices will probably hold up better this fall than in late 1959.

Meat production this year is expected to total about 27.9 billion pounds, 2 percent above last year and second only to the 28.1 billion pounds produced in 1956. Supplies per person will be down a pound or so from last year as imports are smaller and our population is increasing. Consumers will have approximately 5 pounds less pork but 3 pounds more beef in 1960 than in 1959.

#### REVIEW AND OUTLOOK

##### Increase Forecast For 1961 Spring Pig Crop

An increase in the 1961 spring pig crop seems likely. The 1960 spring crop was cut sharply--16 percent--and a 3 percent reduction in the fall crop was indicated from producers' plans in June. Producers at that time in 10 of the Corn Belt States reported intentions to have 3 percent fewer sows farrow fall pigs. This was made up of 6 percent fewer June-August litters but 2 percent more September-November farrowings. In September, these 10 States reported that they were carrying out these intentions fairly closely and intended to increase December-February farrowings 4 percent.

The prospective increase in 10 States need not mean that the entire 1961 spring crop will be of this size. The increase may in some degree reflect a shift to earlier farrowings. However, these States produced 73 percent of the U. S. pig crop last year and, if they carry out their intentions, early season farrowings will almost certainly be larger than a year earlier. Moreover, in the 5 years in which quarterly intentions have been available, September intentions have correctly indicated the direction of change in total spring



farrowings. In 2 years, early intentions for the pig crop of 1956 and 1960 understated the magnitude of change actually occurring. (table 1).

At the same time, present conditions make a rise in spring farrowings possible, if not probable. Feed grain production this year is currently estimated about 2 percent smaller than last year. However, the carryover of feed grains has increased and supplies of feed in the 1960-61 feeding year will be record large. Prices are expected to average a little lower this fall and winter than in 1959-60.

Table 1.--Farrowing intentions for early spring pigs and actual farrowings, percentage change from a year earlier, 1956 to date

Year	December-February intentions 1/	Reported farrowings 2/					
		December-February		March-May		December-May	
		Selected States	U. S.	Selected States	U. S.	Selected States	U. S.
		Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
1956	-2	0	+1	-14	-13	-10	-8
1957	-4	-2	-5	-2	-5	-2	-3
1958	+7	+20	+13	-3	-4	+4	+3
1959	+20	+16	+16	+6	+9	+9	+11
1960	-4	-20	-17	-12	-13	-15	-15
1961	+4						

1/ Intentions for 9 or 10 States reported in September.

2/ Reported the following June.

The hog-corn price ratio during the next few months when farmers are planning for spring farrowings will probably be in the 15-15.5 range. Granted that the hog-corn ratio has had less effect on hog production in recent years than in earlier periods, a September-December ratio (U. S., prices to farmers) of 12.8 or better has always been followed by an increase in the number of sows farrowing the following spring (table 2).

As more and more producers change from their previous practices of having sows farrow according to a distinct spring-fall pattern, analyses based on the traditional two seasons have less validity. Data on farrowings by quarters are becoming increasingly helpful as they provide a basis 4 times a year for planning hog production. Changes in the typical seasonal pattern in farrowings, slaughter, and prices are discussed in the special article on page 16.

Table 2.--Hog-corn price ratio during fall breeding season, United States and North Central Region, arrayed according to United States ratio, and number of sows farrowing following spring, 1924-60

Year	Hog-corn price ratio September-December <u>1</u> /		Number of sows farrowing following spring	Increase or decrease from preceding spring in sows farrowing	
	United States	North Central States		Number	Percentage
			<u>1,000 head</u>	<u>1,000 head</u>	<u>Percent</u>
1958	17.9	18.4	8,278	850	11.4
1938	17.2	18.8	8,692	1,897	27.9
1942	17.2	18.4	12,174	2,490	25.7
1948	17.1	17.5	8,820	987	12.6
1957	16.9	17.7	7,428	151	2.1
1926	16.6	17.5	9,754	706	7.8
1953	15.8	16.2	7,669	624	8.9
1941	15.5	16.3	9,684	1,924	24.8
1949	15.4	15.8	9,179	359	4.1
1937	15.3	16.7	6,795	618	10.0
1960	<u>2</u> /15.0-15.5	---	---	---	---
1946	14.8	15.6	8,548	471	5.8
1935	14.7	15.8	6,954	1,487	27.2
1932	14.2	17.4	9,123	312	3.5
1950	13.5	13.7	9,484	305	3.3
1925	13.5	15.3	9,048	714	8.6
1954	12.8	13.0	8,359	690	9.0
1945	12.7	13.5	8,077	-225	-2.7
1943	12.4	13.4	9,246	-2,928	-24.1
1944	12.3	13.4	8,302	-944	-10.2
1956	12.3	12.4	7,277	-388	-5.1
1959	12.2	12.5	7,060	-1,218	-14.7
1939	12.0	13.3	8,247	-445	-5.1
1931	12.0	13.0	8,811	-160	-1.8
1951	11.5	11.6	8,311	-1,173	-12.4
1955	11.4	11.5	7,665	-694	-8.3
1952	11.3	11.8	7,045	-1,266	-15.2
1947	11.2	11.2	7,833	-715	-8.4
1927	11.2	11.6	9,301	-453	-4.6
1928	11.2	12.2	8,854	-447	-4.8
1930	11.2	12.3	8,971	693	8.4
1929	10.3	10.9	8,278	-576	-6.5
1940	10.0	10.6	7,760	-487	-5.9
1936	9.4	9.4	6,177	-777	-11.2
1933	8.6	10.2	6,825	-2,298	-25.2
1924	8.2	8.7	8,334	-1,465	-15.0
1934	6.8	7.0	5,467	-1,358	-19.9

1/ Based on prices received by farmers.

2/ Forecast.



If the spring pig crop should expand moderately, pork supplies would not be excessive. A 4-percent increase, for example, would mean supplies per person next September-February (when spring-crop hogs are marketed) only a little larger than probable supplies this fall and winter but still below September 1958-February 1959 when pork production was cyclically low. An increase of 7 percent would be necessary to reach the 1958 spring crop. Even with such a gain, pork supplies per person would be smaller than those following the 1958 crop, because of our increasing population. But demand for pork has not increased much--lack of substantial increase in demand would probably offset much of the advantage of the gain in number of consumers.<sup>1/</sup> Hence, a modest increase in hog production would likely lead to somewhat lower prices but not to a price collapse.

Adjustment in hog production frequently proceeds too fast and goes too far. This has become more evident in recent years when production of hogs has followed a cyclical pattern. Though the cycles in recent years have become shorter than formerly, they show little tendency to be less pronounced. Should hog production turn upward in 1961, as now seems likely, the current downswing would be the shortest on record.

#### Fall Hog Prices Supported By Smoother Farrowings

The trend toward earlier spring farrowings was interrupted this year. But the fall pig crop showed a smaller cut from year-earlier levels than spring pigs. The extent to which producers have broken away from concentrating most farrowings in spring months is shown in table 3 and discussed in a special article, page 16.

This smoother pattern of farrowings has moderated changes in slaughter and price. Farrowings by quarters compared with commercial slaughter 7 months later is shown in table 3. The outlook for less-than-usual price declines this fall is based on the prospect for a lessened concentration of slaughter in these months.

<sup>1/</sup> See special article on The Demand for Pork, page 19.

Table 3 .--Distribution of farrowings and hog slaughter, by quarters, 1948 to date

Year	Farrowings					Commercial slaughter <sup>2/</sup>				
	Dec.-	Mar.-	June-	Sept.-	Aug.-	Nov.-	Feb.-	May-		
	Feb. <sup>1/</sup>	May	Aug.	Nov.	Oct.	Jan.	Apr.	July		
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.		
1948	10.5	50.2	17.7	21.6	19.6	33.5	25.5	21.4		
1949	11.7	49.6	17.5	21.2	21.9	32.4	24.6	21.1		
1950	11.6	49.1	17.3	22.0	21.5	31.9	24.3	22.3		
1951	12.8	48.7	18.1	20.4	22.5	31.3	26.5	19.7		
1952	14.1	48.0	19.3	18.6	23.9	33.1	24.6	18.4		
1953	14.1	47.0	20.5	18.4	24.8	30.5	24.5	20.2		
1954	16.1	44.4	21.7	17.8	24.0	30.4	25.7	19.9		
1955	17.9	42.0	21.2	18.9	23.3	30.8	25.9	20.0		
1956	19.8	39.8	20.6	19.8	25.5	28.7	24.7	21.1		
1957	19.6	39.1	21.6	19.7	26.1	28.0	24.1	21.8		
1958	20.7	35.1	23.5	20.7	24.1	26.3	26.3	23.3		
1959	22.1	35.3	23.3	19.3	25.0	28.3	25.3	21.4		
1960	20.4	34.1								

<sup>1/</sup> December of previous year. <sup>2/</sup> Quarters correspond approximately to those of farrowing year beginning August as shown in stub.

Hog Prices Above Year Ago  
Since June

Prices of hogs to producers have recovered from the low point to which they fell last December. During the first 3 months this year they were below a year earlier; matched 1959 prices in April and May; and since May they have been above a year before. The average price received by farmers in August was \$16.40 per 100 pounds, \$2.60 above last August but about \$4.00 below August 1957 and 1958.

Weekly market prices declined during August but recovered part of this loss in early-September. During August the weekly slaughter rate in federally inspected plants was 5 to 6 percent less than a year earlier. Average weights were heavier, and more pork was withdrawn from cold storage, narrowing the margin in pork supplies compared with a year before. Pork output was somewhat greater than anticipated earlier from the 17 percent reduction in early farrowings last spring. Increased supplies of other red meats also contributed to the contraseasonal decline in August. Beef output was a record for that month.

Although the weekly slaughter rate was down, total slaughter for August will probably be close to August 1959 because of the increase in slaughtering days. Most slaughtering plants operate on a 5-day week, Monday through Friday. There are 23 such days this year and only 21 last August.

Prices to Decline Seasonally  
But Continue Above A Year Earlier

Hog prices will decline seasonally this fall but will continue well above prices last fall. The full impact of this year's smaller spring pig crop likely will be felt during this fall and winter. The crop is a little later this year than last, and producers apparently are not aiming for early marketings. Hence, market supplies of 1960 spring pigs will likely not reach a peak until late in the year.

Prices will probably continue above a year earlier through the first half of 1961. Until about next August, hogs will be slaughtered from the pig crops of 1960. The 1960 spring crop is down and producers planned in June to cut fall farrowings by 4 percent. According to the September report from 10 States June-August farrowings were down 7 percent. Price variations from the present time through the first half of next year will probably be less than usual.

Cattle Production Increasing

Numbers of cattle and calves on farms and ranches next January 1 will probably set a new high of around 105 million head, up over 12 percent from the recent low of 93.4 million on hand January 1, 1958. The expansion in numbers has already led to cyclical increases in slaughter and lower prices. Barring widespread drought, cattle numbers will probably continue to rise during 1961. Eventually, however, downtrending prices will reach a point unfavorable to further expansions.



Cattle slaughter thus far this year has been over 10 percent above a year before. Steers and heifers account for the big increase in total numbers slaughtered. January-July slaughter in federally inspected plants totaled nearly 10.9 million head, 10 percent more than a year earlier. The number of steers and cows slaughtered was up 9.7 percent each, and heifer slaughter was 12.3 percent larger in the first 7 months of 1960 than during the same months in 1959. Calf slaughter for these months was 3.4 percent above a year earlier.

The average price to producers for beef cattle has trended downward from the recent peak of \$24.40 per 100 pounds in May 1959. In August 1960 the average price was \$19.60, \$3.30 below August 1959, but still above any August price from 1953 to 1957. Cow prices have declined less than other classes. In August, cow prices were \$2.70 below a year earlier, compared with a decline of \$3.50 for steers and heifers, and of \$6.20 for calves.

Fed Cattle Marketings Up;  
To Continue Large This Fall

In the first 6 months of 1960, slaughter of both fed and non-fed cattle was above last year. During July, marketings of fed cattle dropped below a year earlier, but in August they picked up sharply to climb above year-earlier levels. Receipts of fed steers and heifers at 7 leading markets, however, averaged 3 percent below a year earlier the first 3 weeks in September.

Table 4 --Market receipts of slaughter steers and heifers and shipments of stocker and feeder cattle, 1960 compared with 1959

Period	Slaughter steers and heifers sold out of first hands, 12 markets			Shipments of stocker and feeder steers and heifers, 10 markets			Inspected stocker and feeder cattle and calves received in Corn Belt States		
	1960	1959	Per-cent-age change	1960	1959	Per-cent-age change	1960	1959	Per-cent-age change
	1,000 head	1,000 head	Pct.	1,000 head	1,000 head	Pct.	1,000 head	1,000 head	Pct.
Jan.-June	3,187	3,033	+5.1	590	623	-5.4	1,904	2,129	-10.6
July	492	519	-5.2	67	81	-17.9	249	328	-24.1
Aug.	628	520	+20.7	119	126	-6.1	388	442	-12.3
Sept. 1/	2/329	2/340	2/-3.3	121	132	-8.3			

1/ 3-week total.  
2/ 7 markets.



Cattle are moving into feedlots later this year than in 1959. In many years a sizable movement got underway by September. The data in table 4 showing stocker and feeder shipments do not tell the complete story on cattle placed on feed; producers often have cattle on hand that they can feed out. However, the number of cattle placed on feed in April-June in 21 feeding States was 6 percent smaller than a year earlier. The margin in numbers on feed over a year ago declined from 8 percent on April 1 to 4 percent on July 1.

As a result of these divergent trends in marketings and placements, the cattle-on-feed inventory has probably been reduced since July 1. By October they probably will be about the same as October 1959. However, the supply of long-fed, well finished cattle this fall will probably be a little larger than last fall. Late this fall there may be an interval during which fewer such cattle will be available and supplies of short-feds will be small. This would result in moderately stronger fed cattle prices late this year or early in 1961.

This outlook is strengthened by the fact that shipments of steers and heifers were down in July-August but calves were up. The average weight of steers was also lighter, indicating that these animals will probably not reach optimum weight and finish very soon. This pattern could be misleading, however, as total supplies of young cattle are larger than they were last fall and movement into feedlots could increase rapidly. In some years cattle are put on full feed rather quickly after they are purchased and this might be the case this fall.

Grass cattle marketings this fall are expected to be larger than last fall. They will probably find a ready market as slaughter cattle or as feeders and sell at somewhat lower prices than last fall. Barring unexpected worsening in range feed conditions, marketings off grass will not be unusually large.

The reported condition of range feed in the 17 Western States on September 1 varied widely, but averaged about the same as last year. Total hay and other harvested forage is expected to be about 2 percent less than in 1959, a condition that may mean relatively high wintering costs for cattle retained on hand. Reports from farmers and ranchers indicate that by September 1 about a fourth of the expected total marketings of range cattle and calves had already been sold or contracted for. Since this movement is later than usual, a speeding up of marketings is due.

### Feeder Cattle Prices

Prices of feeder cattle have declined more during the past year than have prices of fat cattle. Feeder steers at Kansas City are currently about \$4.00 per 100 pounds below the price of Choice slaughter steers at Chicago. Last September feeders were \$2.25 below fat steers. In 1959 feeder prices declined to \$3 to \$4 from September to the end of the year. Unless marketings reach a level that is considerably higher than appeared likely late in September, the seasonal price decline will be considerably smaller this fall than last.

Table 5.--Selected prices of livestock, by months, 1959 and 1960

Month	: Choice slaughter		: Stocker and		: Barrows and		: Lambs,	
	: steers at		: feeder steers at:		: gilts at		: received	
	: Chicago 1/		: Kansas City 2/		: 8 markets 3/		: by farmers	
	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
:	1960	1959	1960	1959	1960	1959	1960	1959
:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
:	<u>Dol.</u>	<u>Dol.</u>	<u>Dol.</u>	<u>Dol.</u>	<u>Dol.</u>	<u>Dol.</u>	<u>Dol.</u>	<u>Dol.</u>
:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Jan.	: 26.42	28.13	23.31	26.10	12.65	16.63	17.80	18.30
Feb.	: 26.69	27.85	23.80	25.97	13.56	15.63	18.60	18.10
Mar.	: 28.08	29.11	25.14	27.78	15.55	15.89	20.30	18.90
Apr.	: 27.76	30.33	25.46	28.63	15.96	16.09	19.90	19.20
May	: 27.43	29.34	25.38	28.69	16.03	16.09	20.20	20.50
June	: 26.04	28.48	23.50	27.24	16.88	15.91	19.90	21.00
July	: 25.64	27.89	21.81	26.47	17.74	14.40	18.30	19.90
Aug.	: 25.07	27.56	21.33	25.96	16.91	14.65	17.40	19.40
Sept.	: 4/24.91	27.62	4/20.89	25.38	4/16.41	13.81		18.60
Oct.	:	27.19		24.41		13.11		17.80
Nov.	:	26.53		23.34		12.61		17.20
Dec.	:	25.57		22.51		11.86		16.60
Average	:	27.83		25.61		14.64		18.70
:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

1/ Sold out of first hands. 2/ All weights. 3/ Average for all weights. Midwest markets. 4/ 3-week average.

Compiled from Market News, Livestock Division and Agricultural Prices.

#### Lamb Slaughter Up; Prices Lower

Sheep and lamb slaughter thus far this year has totaled about 4 percent above last year. Slaughter was below year-earlier levels the first few months this year but since May it has been above. Compared with a year earlier, prices have shown nearly the reverse situation. The average price for lambs received by farmers in August was \$17.40 per 100 pounds, down \$2.00 from a year earlier and the lowest August price since World War II.

Lamb prices are expected to trend downward this fall, as they generally do at this season of the year, but the decline may be less than in the past 2 years. The average price to producers for lambs in December 1958 and 1959 was about \$2.00 per 100 pounds below September prices. Declines in market prices for feeder lambs were generally less than for slaughter lambs. Demand for lambs for expanding inventories or for feeding will be important factors in the lamb market this fall. Sheepmen may not be in as good a position to retain lambs as they were a year ago when range feed supplies were more plentiful. Some increase in the demand for feeder lambs is expected.



Apparently lambs are coming to market off Western ranges at lighter weights this year than in 1958 or 1959. More flexibility is thus provided as producers can follow varied feeding programs without undue danger of getting lambs too heavy for top prices. It provides also an alternative to holding ewe lambs, postponing the decision to use them as feeders or as herd replacements.

USDA Purchases Frozen Ground  
Beef and Lamb

As of September 28, 1960, more than 25 million pounds of frozen ground beef and 42,000 pounds of frozen ground lamb had been purchased by the U. S. Department of Agriculture for distribution to schools participating in the National School Lunch Program. Since the start of the purchase program August 19, these purchases have totaled about \$10 million. In the weeks ahead the Department intends to accept more offers to sell frozen ground beef and frozen ground lamb, and announced on September 28 plans to buy canned beef and gravy for school lunch.

OUTLOOK FOR MEAT AT RETAIL

Seasonally increased supplies of meat this fall will be reflected in lower retail prices for nearly all cuts, but the declines will probably be less than usual. Supplies of red meat for civilian consumption during the next few months will average below those of a year earlier. Beef supplies will be more plentiful, but significantly less pork will be available.

On the average, retail meat prices have been relatively stable for more than a year. The BLS index of retail meat prices paid by urban consumers (1947-49=100) has ranged between 110 and 118 since February 1959. The index for August was 117.0; only 1.2 points above a year earlier. Prices paid by farmers for beef and pork increased about 1 percent from mid-August 1959 to 1960. Average wholesale prices in September were almost unchanged from late August levels.

The average retail price of beef cuts in August this year was slightly below August a year ago. Veal and lamb were also down from a year earlier. The 3 major pork cuts priced in urban centers monthly by the Bureau of Labor Statistics were above a year ago (table 6). Prices paid by farmers for bacon, ham, pork chops and pork sausage on August 15, 1960 averaged 5 percent higher than on the same date a year earlier.

Retail prices of Choice grade beef will probably continue close to present levels the rest of this year. Supplies will be plentiful and fluctuations in price will likely be temporary. Lower priced cuts and hamburger may trend downward seasonally this fall.

Retail prices of pork will decline seasonally this fall as supplies of pork increase. Prices will continue above last fall. If hog marketings are not bunched, causing temporary changes in supplies, the retailing of pork this fall may be marked by a reduction in special pork sales or less frequent use of pork as a "loss leader" in merchandising.



Table 6.--Average retail price of specified meat cuts,  
per pound, by months, 1957 to date

Year and item	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.
<u>Beef, Choice 1/</u>												
Round steak												
1957	88.7	88.1	87.1	90.7	92.6	94.0	96.9	98.1	98.0	96.3	95.6	96.9
1958	100.6	101.0	103.1	105.8	105.9	106.2	106.3	104.0	103.7	104.5	104.9	104.9
1959	106.7	107.1	107.2	107.7	107.7	108.1	108.9	107.0	107.8	106.5	107.0	106.4
1960	106.0	105.2	105.6	107.7	105.9	105.8	105.7	105.6				
Rib roast												
1957	72.3	69.7	69.6	71.3	73.4	74.4	75.4	76.0	76.6	75.5	75.0	76.3
1958	80.3	80.2	81.0	82.6	82.9	83.0	83.0	81.7	81.6	80.9	81.1	81.2
1959	82.5	82.4	82.1	82.9	83.1	82.9	83.5	82.5	83.0	82.9	82.6	82.3
1960	82.0	81.3	81.6	81.1	82.4	82.3	82.3	82.0				
Chuck roast												
1957	49.0	49.7	48.7	50.9	52.0	52.2	53.0	54.0	55.1	54.3	53.4	56.3
1958	59.1	61.1	64.1	65.7	64.8	65.5	65.1	62.7	62.4	62.5	62.6	63.4
1959	64.3	65.5	65.2	64.8	65.7	64.5	64.2	62.7	62.1	63.6	63.5	63.2
1960	62.7	62.6	62.6	64.0	63.0	61.9	60.6	60.8				
Hamburger												
1957	39.0	39.1	39.3	40.0	40.8	42.2	43.6	44.3	44.1	43.6	43.8	44.6
1958	47.8	49.0	50.3	53.1	54.0	54.6	54.8	53.7	53.8	54.3	54.4	54.7
1959	55.6	55.7	55.2	55.0	55.3	55.3	55.4	54.7	54.6	54.6	53.9	53.7
1960	53.2	52.5	52.7	53.2	52.8	52.6	52.9	52.2				
<u>Pork, Chops</u>												
1957	79.7	82.8	81.4	83.1	85.0	92.7	92.7	92.9	90.8	88.0	85.4	85.2
1958	87.9	88.6	89.5	91.2	91.3	96.0	96.9	94.6	93.5	92.3	90.7	89.1
1959	88.8	84.8	81.7	84.0	85.5	87.4	87.9	85.4	89.0	86.6	83.8	79.2
1960	78.4	78.2	80.8	84.1	82.3	86.0	89.6	89.8				
Bacon, sliced												
1957	64.4	69.4	67.7	68.5	71.4	74.9	80.7	87.5	85.4	75.5	69.8	70.4
1958	75.6	77.2	77.1	79.5	80.4	81.9	85.1	86.4	83.0	78.8	73.9	72.8
1959	72.1	69.4	67.4	68.4	68.8	68.6	68.4	66.6	65.9	63.1	60.7	58.4
1960	57.5	58.2	58.8	63.9	66.6	67.4	67.5	71.0				
Hams, whole												
1957	62.0	62.7	61.7	61.9	62.7	63.6	64.3	66.6	64.3	61.7	61.5	64.3
1958	66.3	66.5	68.4	68.6	67.9	69.1	69.2	68.9	66.3	65.8	66.4	67.7
1959	67.5	64.9	63.7	63.1	62.7	63.1	62.2	60.1	60.5	59.6	59.1	59.6
1960	58.6	58.2	58.8	58.1	61.3	61.4	61.5	61.6				
<u>Veal cutlet</u>												
1957	114.7	116.8	116.4	117.3	117.2	118.6	117.8	118.5	119.1	118.5	118.3	120.0
1958	125.1	129.3	131.2	131.8	133.0	133.9	133.8	134.2	135.0	135.1	135.3	137.9
1959	139.1	142.5	140.6	141.5	143.0	143.3	143.9	142.9	143.4	142.5	141.8	140.9
1960	141.9	143.1	144.0	143.1	143.1	143.2	141.1	140.1				
<u>Leg of lamb</u>												
1957	67.7	68.2	67.2	71.7	72.8	73.9	72.6	72.6	72.7	71.9	71.7	72.3
1958	76.1	78.0	77.5	78.1	77.0	77.6	77.9	76.8	77.1	77.4	77.6	77.3
1959	75.5	73.9	73.7	75.2	76.5	77.4	76.8	74.9	74.8	74.7	74.4	73.9
1960	73.3	72.5	73.7	75.0	76.2	77.1	75.1	73.5				

1/ Except hamburger, which has no grade designation.

Leg of lamb prices rose nearly 4 cents a pound from January to June this year. They are currently near 1959 prices despite the lower prices to producers for lambs. Prices will likely decline moderately this fall with prices continuing a little below last fall.

#### OUTLOOK FOR SAUSAGE MEATS

Some gain in sausage meat supplies is likely this fall as slaughter reaches its seasonal high. Grass cattle slaughter, including cows, is expected to be up a little from last year. Pork sausage ingredients will be noticeably less plentiful this fall and winter than last. The quantity processed as sausage items will likely show a small decline during the fall, as it usually does at that season of the year. The reduction from a year earlier is expected to be greater for fresh finished sausage than other types.

Cow slaughter, which provides a good deal of the meat used in processing, has been close to 10 percent above the 1959 rate thus far this year. This margin is expected to be increased during the remaining months. Such a rate would not be unusually high but about equal to cow slaughter in the fall of 1958.

Imports of meat, primarily for further processing, during the first half of 1960 totaled 486 million pounds, carcass weight equivalent, down 24 percent from January-June 1959. Most of the decline was in beef. Meat imports are expected to continue smaller than a year earlier in the last half of this year but the difference will probably narrow toward the end of 1960.

Cold storage stocks of meats on September 1 totaled 456 million pounds, down 134 million pounds from July 1 and 24 million pounds above a year earlier. The net movement into cold storage this fall is not expected to differ greatly from that in recent years.

In August the weekly rate of sausage production (including loaf and canned sausage items) in federally inspected plants was about 48 million pounds per week. This rate was up from the average weekly output in July and above a year earlier. The seasonal easing off in production in prospect for this fall will likely be in sausage items made from pork. Total output will probably continue above last fall.



Table 7.--Cattle and hog slaughter, meat imports and stocks, and sausage production, by quarters 1959 to date and October-December 1960 forecast

Period	Federally inspected slaughter					
	Cattle				Hogs	
	Total		Cows			
	1960	1959	1960	1959	1960	1959
	<u>1,000 head</u>	<u>1,000 head</u>	<u>1,000 head</u>	<u>1,000 head</u>	<u>1,000 head</u>	<u>1,000 head</u>
Jan.-Mar.	4,578	3,995	978	928	18,474	17,304
Apr.-June	4,709	4,318	1,005	880	16,140	15,523
July-Sept.	<u>1/5,130</u>	4,546	<u>1/1,160</u>	943	<u>1/14,722</u>	15,929
Oct.-Dec.	<u>2/5,000</u>	4,600	<u>2/1,250</u>	1,085	<u>2/16,600</u>	19,951
Year	<u>2/19,400</u>	17,459	<u>2/4,400</u>	3,836	<u>2/66,000</u>	68,707
	Imports all meat <u>3/</u>		Meat stocks in cold storage beginning of quarter <u>4/</u>		Sausage production <u>5/</u>	
	1960	1959	1960	1959	1960	1959
	<u>Mil. lb.</u>	<u>Mil. lb.</u>	<u>Mil. lb.</u>	<u>Mil. lb.</u>	<u>Mil. lb.</u>	<u>Mil. lb.</u>
Jan.-Mar.	168	206	544	462	581	509
Apr.-June	190	274	598	602	664	599
July-Sept.	<u>2/200</u>	277	591	582	<u>1/650</u>	646
Oct.-Dec.		197		408		565
Year		954				2,319

1/ Partly estimated.2/ Forecast.3/ Total red meat imports, product weight.4/ Includes beef, veal, pork, lamb, mutton and canned meats in public cold storage.5/ Federally inspected production of all sausage, including loaf, head cheese, jellied products and the following canned items: Luncheon meat, viennas, franks and weiners in brine, deviled ham, other potted or deviled meat food products, bulk sausage and sausage in oil.



## THE CHANGING SEASONAL PATTERNS OF HOG PRODUCTION AND PRICES

By

Arthur A. Harlow

Agricultural Economics Division, AMS

The seasonal high and low points in hog production and prices are being smoothed out by the trend toward year-round farrowings. But spring is still the main season for births and fall for marketings. Prices are usually lowest in the fall when market supplies are abundant, and they reach a peak in summer when marketings are small. Information on seasonality can be useful to producers in planning their production and marketing programs. However, the moderation and changes in these swings place more emphasis on efficiency of production and less on timing of marketings.

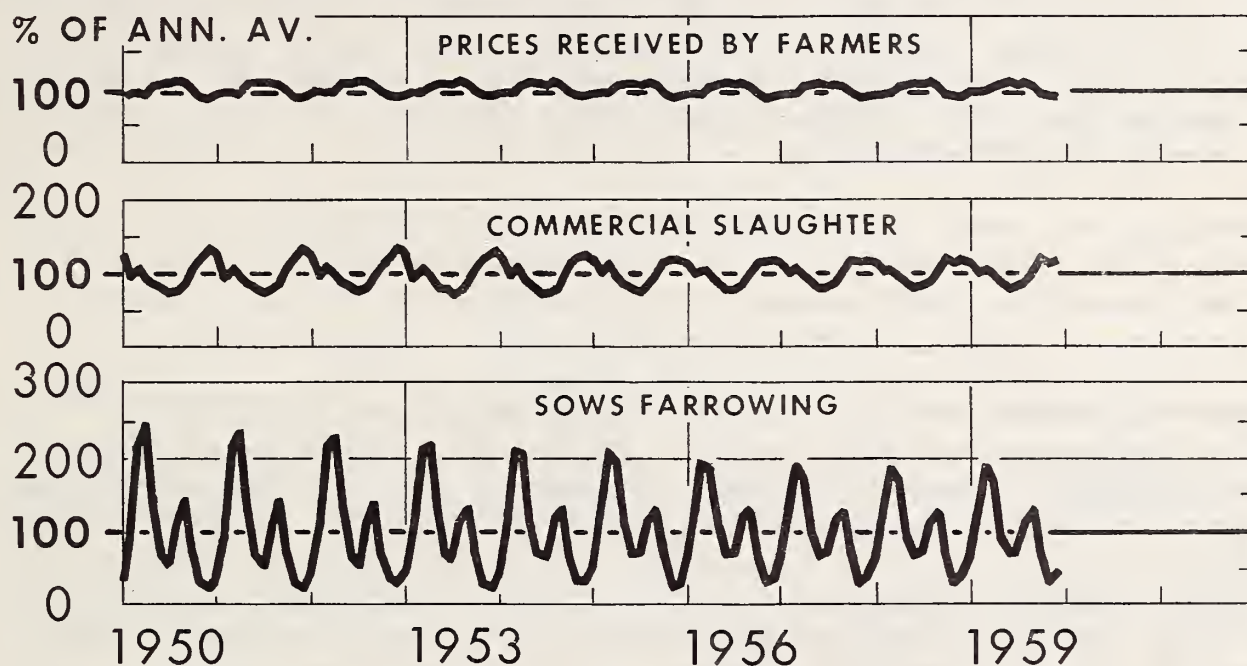
Seasonal variations in the hog industry stem largely from interrelated economic and physiological factors. The gestation period for hogs is about 4 months, and since sows normally are not bred before the pigs are weaned, the time between farrowings for the same sow is about 6 months. Sows are generally bred to farrow in the spring and fall when the weather is favorable, and consequently there are two seasonal peaks in farrowings. As hogs are regularly slaughtered 6-9 months after farrowing, the seasonal patterns in slaughter and prices are largely determined by the pattern of farrowings.

While the basic seasonal patterns still hold, there has been a gradual decrease in the amount of seasonal variation in the hog industry during the last ten years, as is shown by examining the monthly seasonal indexes. These seasonal indexes are ratios computed by dividing the original monthly data by a centered 12-month moving average with adjustments for extreme or irregular values. The indexes show the value for each month as a percentage of the average monthly value for the year adjusted for trend, cyclical and irregular components. An index of 129 for sows farrowing in May 1950, for example, means that the number of sows farrowing in that month is 29 percent greater than the average adjusted monthly farrowings for that year. The table on page 17 gives the indexes for selected years and the chart shows the seasonal patterns for the last ten years.

The seasonal peaks and troughs in farrowings are less pronounced now than formerly because of changes in production practices and breeding. The number of spring farrowings still exceeds the number of fall farrowings, but monthly differences have been reduced as the fall crop has become larger relative to the spring crop. Fall farrowings have increased from 39 percent of the annual total in 1950 to 43 percent in 1959. The 4.0 million head increase in pigs saved in 1959 over 1950 was accounted for largely by the 3.4 million gain in fall pigs.

Until 1954, farrowings reached one maximum during April and another in September, 5 months later. Since that year, however, March has become the peak months, the logical lag for the two-crop system.

# HOGS: SEASONAL VARIATION IN FARROWINGS, SLAUGHTER AND PRICES



MONTHLY DATA

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEG. 8081-60 (9)

AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

Table 8.--Hogs: Indexes of seasonal variation, 1950, 1955 and 1959 <sup>1/</sup>

Month	Price received by farmers			Commercial slaughter			Sows farrowing		
	1950	1955	1959	1950	1955	1959	1950	1955	1959
Jan.	93	95	95	128	118	115	38	57	70
Feb.	99	97	96	94	99	100	92	125	134
Mar.	99	97	98	105	110	104	215	204	187
Apr.	96	104	102	95	94	98	241	194	170
May	103	106	105	88	86	89	129	110	97
June	105	107	108	85	79	81	62	67	73
July	108	105	106	72	76	82	53	68	77
Aug.	110	107	107	78	85	87	103	117	117
Sept.	108	104	103	88	97	99	141	127	128
Oct.	100	97	97	109	114	117	73	67	69
Nov.	90	90	92	124	121	111	31	31	35
Dec.	89	91	91	134	121	117	22	33	43

<sup>1/</sup> Percentage each month is of the average monthly value for the year adjusted for trend, cyclical and irregular components.



The increasing number of specialized hog producers who have the equipment necessary for year-round farrowing has reduced the concentration of farrowings in the spring and fall. Some farmers also divide their sows into groups which farrow at different times and thus have litters being born at more than two periods each year. In 1950 the seasonal indexes of farrowings went from a spring high of 241 in April to a summer low of 53 in July. This was followed by a fall peak of 141 in September and a winter trough of 22 in December. By 1959, the variation had decreased to a spring high of 187 in March, a summer low of 73 in June, then a fall peak of 128 in September and a winter trough of 35 in November.

Although the time that barrows and gilts are slaughtered is closely tied to the time of farrowing, the seasonal variation in hog slaughter has a smaller amplitude than the variation in farrowings. Differences in the weights and ages of hogs marketed account for this reduced variation. For instance, some producers may feed for rapid gains or sell at light weights, as do those who market February pigs in August when prices are usually seasonally higher than in other months. Or they may feed pigs for slower gains or sell them at heavier weights, a common practice in preparing late fall pigs for sale in midsummer.

Until recently the seasonal pattern for hog slaughter was similar to that for sows farrowing although the variation was not as extreme. There were two peaks and two troughs per year. But the peaks were not so evenly spaced as they were for farrowings. The high point in slaughter was reached in December, 8 months after the spring peak in farrowings. A second peak was reached in March, just 6 months after the fall peak in farrowings. This indicates that fall pigs are not fed as long as spring pigs.

The seasonal pattern of slaughter has changed considerably during the last four years. With earlier farrowings and increased feeding efficiency, the late fall peak has leveled off and the four months from October through January now have fairly equal seasonal indexes. The February trough has all but disappeared as August farrowings have increased, and the summer low occurs in June instead of July, now that there are more farrowings in December than in November.

The extremes of seasonal variation in slaughter are less pronounced than they were ten years ago--they follow the reduction in the variation in farrowings. The indexes for 1950 ranged from a low of 72 in July to a high of 134 in December. In 1959, the low was 81 in June and the high was 117 in December.

Although there are seasonal changes in the demand for pork, as a general rule the price received by farmers for hogs varies inversely with the number slaughtered. Prices are usually highest in any given year in midsummer because slaughter is lowest at that time. Then as slaughter increases, prices decline considerably during the fall, reaching a low in November or December. The secondary price peak in late winter has disappeared now that February marketings have increased--prices rise fairly steadily from December



to the summer peak. This peak is now reached earlier in the summer, corresponding to the earlier trough in numbers slaughtered. Whereas August prices used to be the highest of the year, since 1955 June prices have typically been as high as those in August.

There is less seasonal variation in prices than in slaughter or farrowings. But following the reduced variation in slaughter, there has been some decrease in the variation of seasonal indexes for prices during the last ten years. In 1950 the indexes varied from a high of 110 in August to a low of 89 in December. The variation had decreased slightly by 1959, with a high of 108 in June and a low of 91 in December.

### THE DEMAND FOR PORK

---

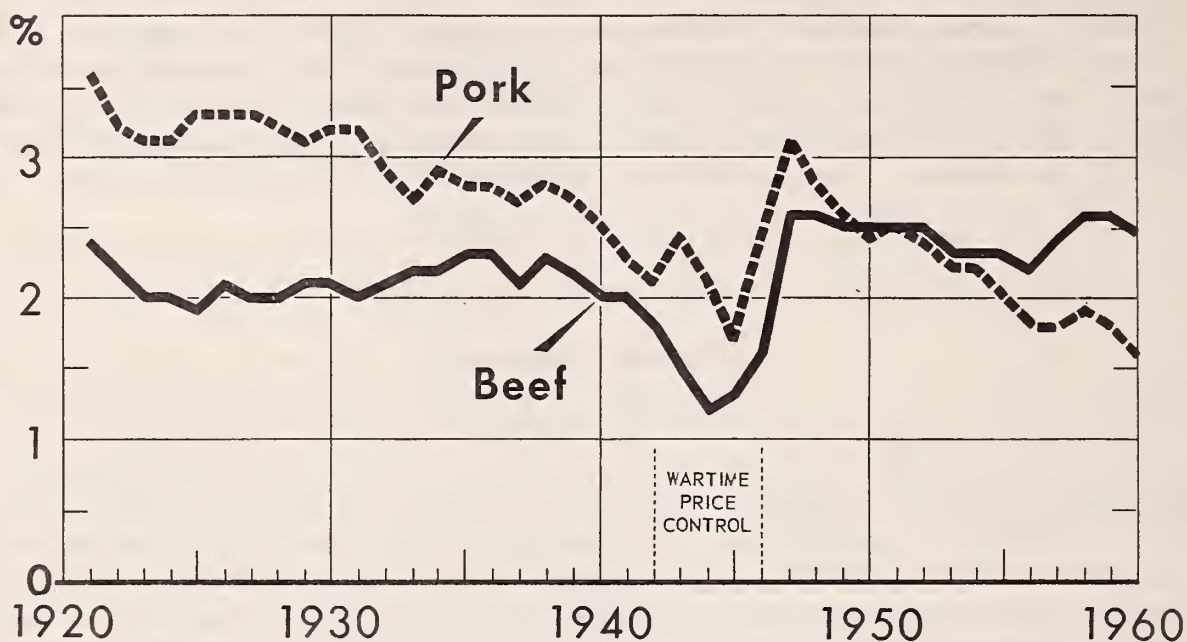
:  
: The following article has been taken from the publication Consumer Pre- :  
: ferences for Pork, Des Moines, Iowa by Raymond O. Gaarder, Norman V. :  
: Strand and Wilbur R. Maki, Research Bulletin 477, Iowa Agricultural and :  
: Home Economics Experiment Station, April 1960. Data for 1959, and esti- :  
: mates for 1960 indicate a continuation of the trends discussed in the :  
: article. In fact, estimates for 1960 indicate that the retail value of :  
: pork consumed as a percentage of consumer income may have reached the :  
: lowest point on record. Pork supplies per person are rather low this :  
: year, and beef supplies are above average. If the farrowing intentions :  
: of the September pig crop report are carried out, the 4 percent increase :  
: over last year in number of sows farrowing during the December 1960 to :  
: February 1961 period will provide more downward leverage on hog prices. :  
:

---

One of the two problems concerning the demand for pork is the declining demand for lard. As the lower chart on page 20 shows, since the beginning of the century, a widening gap has grown between the prices of the important lean cuts of pork and of fat for lard.

The second problem--probably the more serious of the two--is the declining demand for pork, especially in relation to competing meats. The relative demand changes are illustrated in the chart on page 21 which shows pork prices and consumption as percentages of those for beef. According to the figure, per capita pork consumption has varied sharply relative to beef consumption. Year-to-year changes in hog or cattle marketings are responsible for these sharp variations in the pork-beef consumption ratio. Nevertheless, the general tendency during the period has been a relative decline in pork products consumed per person. This means, of course, that per capita beef consumption has tended to increase relative to that of pork.

## PERCENTAGE OF CONSUMER'S DOLLAR SPENT FOR BEEF AND PORK

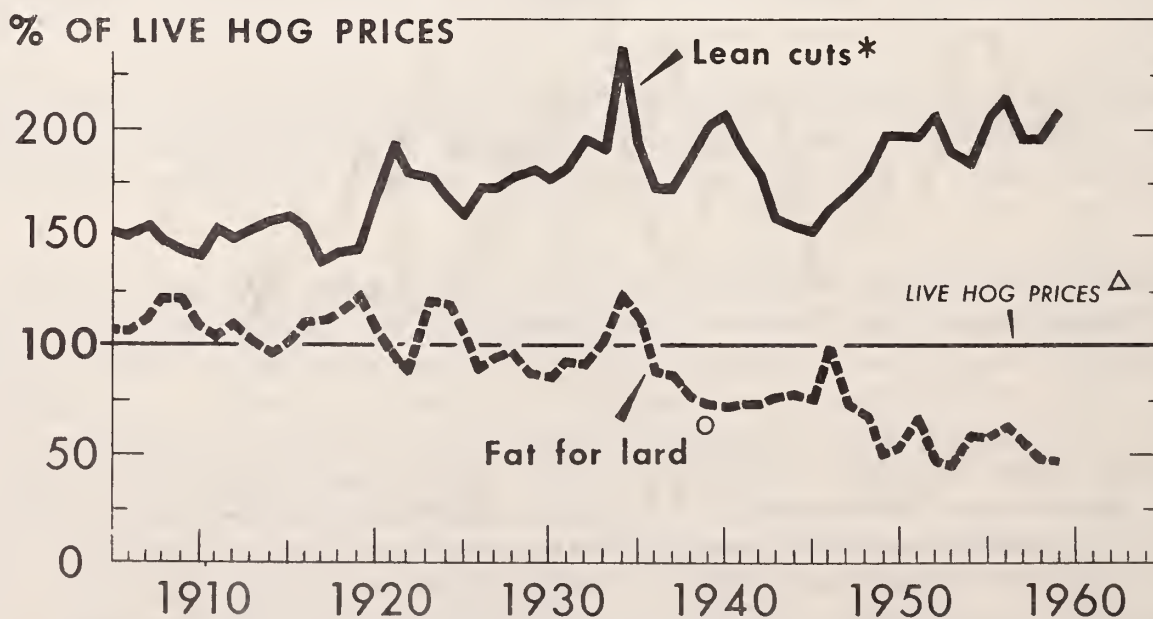


U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEG. 1827-60 (9) AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

## WHOLESALE PORK PRICES

*Compared with Live Hog Prices*



\* 35.05 LB. LOINS, HAMS, BOSTON BUTTS, PICNICS, SPARERIBS, LEAN TRIMMINGS, 1905-54. 37.71 LB. 1945 TO DATE.

△ U. S. NO. 1, 2 AND 3, 200-220 LB. JULY 1955 TO DATE, AND COMPARABLE PRICE SERIES FOR EARLIER YEARS.

○ REFLECTS LARD VALUE OF FAT AT AN 80% YIELD.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEG. 677A-59 (12) AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

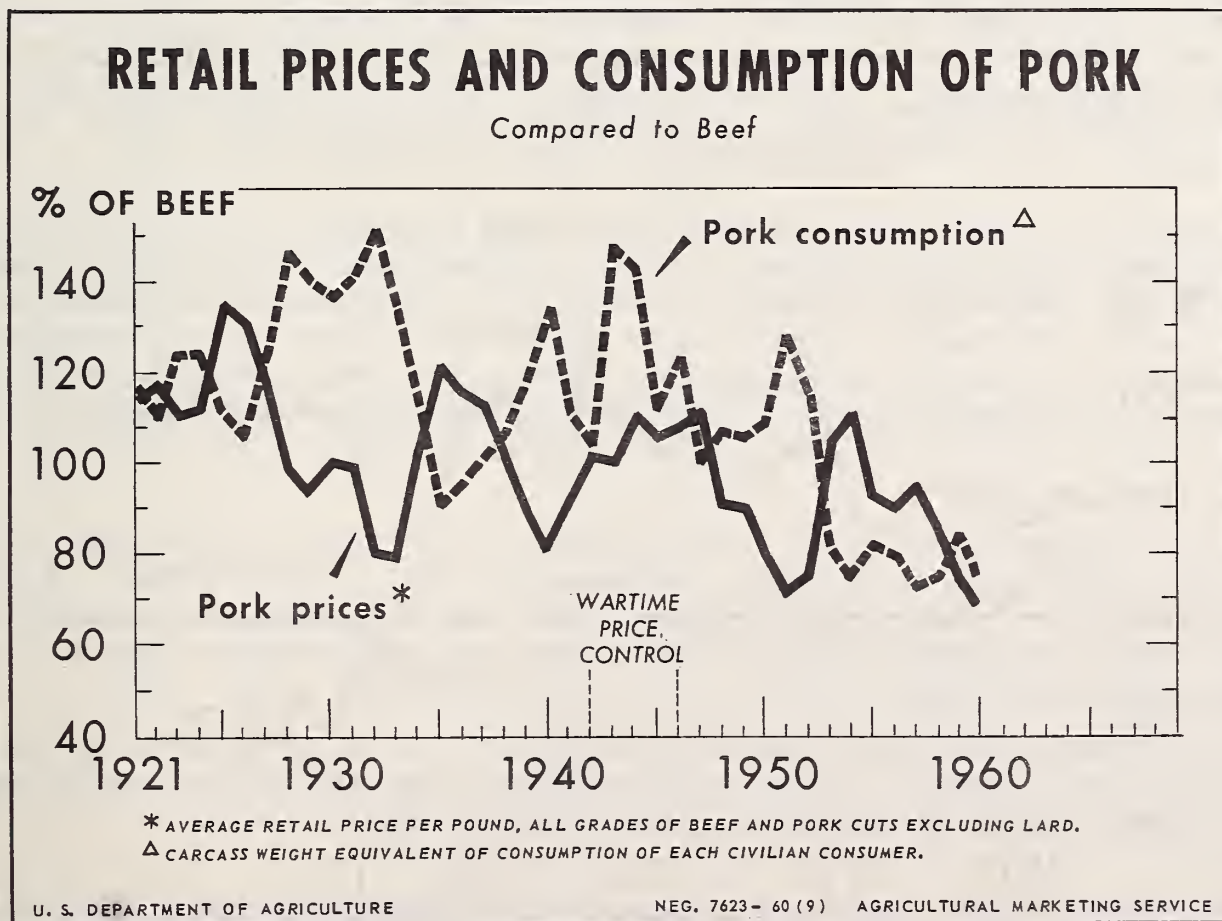


If the demand for pork had maintained its relationship to the demand for beef, decreasing pork supplies per person would have forced the pork-beef price ratio up. But retail pork prices fell relative to those for beef. The pork-beef price ratio line also had undergone extreme fluctuations as a result of the same forces that disturbed the consumption ratio line. The trend over the years covered by the chart is downward, the same as for consumption. The combination of these two trends means that the demand for pork has been falling relative to the demand for beef. This relative change could have been due to an increase in the demand for beef or a decrease in the demand for pork. Economic analyses indicate both have occurred.

To develop means of increasing the demand for pork, more knowledge is needed of consumer preferences and what causes them.

Knowledge of the pattern of preferences for pork would be required both for the development of a satisfactory method of sorting or grading pork cuts, if that should be needed, and for the setting of goals and guides for breeding, trimming, and merchandising.

To determine consumer preferences and attitudes regarding pork and to obtain information on factors affecting consumption of pork and other meats, the Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station selected a probability sample of households in Des Moines, Iowa, for interview. An interview was obtained during





June 1955 from the person who generally bought the meat for the family in each of 499 households. This survey of opinions and preferences represents a small geographic area. While such a survey in other parts of the country might yield slightly different results, the conclusions are probably typical for most pork consumers.

Income and family size were the principal determinants of pork consumption patterns among the survey households. For a given income, total pork consumption increased sharply as the size of family increased. As income increased for a given size of household, however, pork consumption gradually declined. No differences related to occupation were detected.

The pork cut or pork dish listed as the family's favorite was usually pork chops or ham. Thirty-two percent of the homemakers indicated that their families preferred chops, and 28 percent indicated a preference for ham. Pork roast was listed as the favorite by 12 percent, bacon by 10 percent. No other pork cut or pork dish was mentioned as the most preferred by more than 2 percent of the respondents.

Respondents were asked to comment on the quality of some of the major pork cuts. Chops and ham received fewer complaints about fatness than did bacon, pork roast, and sausage. Although pork roast had the smallest number of users and the largest percentage of user complaints about fatness, it also ranked near the top in percentage of unqualified "good" and "excellent" comments from users--with fewer "in-between" comments. The percentage of users who complained about fatness of bacon and sausage approximated the average percentage for all five cuts--about 14 percent. Another 34 percent of the bacon users said they could find the type of bacon they desired if they searched for it or paid a higher price.

Opinions on the health value of pork were obtained to ascertain the nature and extent of misinformation, if any, that may have contributed to unfavorable attitudes toward pork. Sixty percent of the respondents had heard or read something about the health value of pork. About two-thirds of the respondents who remembered the source of information cited mass media, school or college as the source of favorable opinions. Most of the remainder cited childhood, conversation, doctor or "own idea"--nearly all of the unfavorable ideas were attributed to these sources.

The findings showed that the respondents were able to differentiate between pork chops in terms of their preference for fat or lean chops. Eighty-nine percent of the respondents preferred the lean or medium over the fat chops. Bone and texture were relatively unimportant secondary factors cited as reasons for preference rankings.

Respondents indicated dissatisfaction with the size of chops as they found them in the market. A larger-than-average chop with an eye muscle area of about 6 square inches was preferred to an average chop.

According to the findings, prospects of forestalling the present decline in demand for pork are not promising unless pork is made more attractive to those households that have the means to buy meats they prefer.

## Supply and distribution of meat, April 1960 to date

Period	Commercially produced								Total <sup>2/</sup>		
	Supply				Distribution				Civilian consumption		
	Production	Beginning stocks	Imports	Exports and shipments	Ending stocks	Military	Civilian consumption		Production	Total	Per person
							Total	Per person <sup>1/</sup>			
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Lb.
Beef:											
April	1,064	166	71	5	158	27	1,111	6.3	---	---	---
May	1,199	158	53	4	148	32	1,226	6.9	---	---	---
June	1,244	148	65	4	145	36	1,272	7.2	---	---	---
2nd quarter	3,507	166	189	13	145	95	3,609	20.4	---	---	3/21
July	1,163	145	80	4	146	28	1,210	6.8	---	---	---
August		146			151	31			---	---	---
September											
3rd quarter											
Veal:											
April	75	8	2	4/	8	2	75	.4	---	---	---
May	76	8	1	4/	8	2	75	.4	---	---	---
June	85	8	1	4/	8	2	84	.5	---	---	---
2nd quarter	236	8	4	4/	8	6	234	1.3	---	---	3/1.4
July	85	8	1	4/	8	2	84	.5	---	---	---
August		8			8	2			---	---	---
September											
3rd quarter											
Lamb and mutton:											
April	59	11	6	4/	12	4/	64	.4	---	---	---
May	61	12	4	1	10	1	65	.4	---	---	---
June	60	10	4	4/	12	4/	62	.3	---	---	---
2nd quarter	180	11	14	1	12	1	191	1.1	---	---	3/1.1
July	57	12	6	4/	13	4/	62	.3	---	---	---
August		13			14	4/			---	---	---
September											
3rd quarter											
Pork:											
April	909	338	17	13	383	15	853	4.8	---	---	---
May	904	383	15	12	386	19	885	5.0	---	---	---
June	852	386	19	10	351	22	874	4.9	---	---	---
2nd quarter	2,665	338	51	35	351	56	2,612	14.8	---	---	3/16
July	723	351	17	9	294	12	776	4.4	---	---	---
August		294			219	15			---	---	---
September											
3rd quarter											
All meat:											
April	2,107	523	96	18	561	44	2,103	11.9	---	---	---
May	2,244	561	73	17	552	54	2,251	12.7	---	---	---
June	2,241	552	89	14	516	60	2,292	12.9	---	---	---
2nd quarter	6,588	523	258	49	516	158	6,646	37.6	---	---	3/39.5
July	2,028	516	104	13	461	42	2,132	12.0	---	---	---
August		416			392	48			---	---	---
September											
3rd quarter											

<sup>1/</sup> Derived from estimates by months of population eating out of civilian food supplies, unadjusted for underenumeration.

<sup>2/</sup> Includes production and consumption from farm slaughter.

<sup>3/</sup> Estimated.

<sup>4/</sup> Less than 500,000 pounds.



## Selected price statistics for meat animals and meat

Item	Unit	1959		1960		
		July	August	June	July	August
Cattle and calves						
Beef steers, slaughter	Dollars per					
Chicago, Prime	100 pounds	29.11	28.60	28.80	27.38	26.35
Choice	do.	27.89	27.56	26.04	25.64	25.07
Good	do.	26.73	26.47	24.15	24.10	23.71
Standard	do.	24.70	24.57	21.02	21.26	21.00
Commercial	do.	---	---	20.77	---	20.00
Utility	do.	22.61	22.78	19.43	19.56	18.96
All grades	do.	27.61	27.36	25.58	25.30	24.75
Omaha, all grades	do.	26.68	26.44	23.94	23.62	23.30
Sioux City, all grades	do.	26.76	26.62	24.09	23.64	23.51
Cows, Chicago						
Commercial	do.	19.02	18.41	17.28	16.16	14.67
Utility	do.	17.67	17.70	16.76	15.78	14.62
Canner and Cutter	do.	16.43	16.43	15.69	14.68	13.23
Vealers, Choice, Chicago	do.	---	---	28.92	27.15	25.10
Stocker and feeder steers, Kansas City <u>1/</u>	do.	26.47	25.96	23.50	21.81	21.33
Price received by farmers						
Beef cattle	do.	23.30	22.90	21.00	20.50	19.60
Calves	do.	28.00	27.40	23.50	22.80	21.20
Hogs						
Barrows and gilts						
Chicago						
160-180 pounds	do.	---	---	---	---	---
180-200 pounds	do.	14.52	14.28	17.44	17.99	16.77
200-220 pounds	do.	14.90	14.67	17.56	18.25	17.11
220-240 pounds	do.	14.82	14.76	17.38	18.13	17.08
240-270 pounds	do.	---	---	16.89	17.67	16.91
270-300 pounds	do.	---	---	---	---	---
All weights	do.	14.38	14.58	16.89	17.62	16.94
8 markets <u>2/</u>	do.	14.40	14.65	16.88	17.74	16.91
Sows, Chicago	do.	10.67	11.85	13.82	14.38	14.60
Price received by farmers	do.	13.40	13.80	16.00	16.60	16.40
Hog-corn price ratio <u>3/</u>						
Chicago, barrows and gilts		11.4	11.5	14.1	14.7	14.3
Price received by farmers, all hogs		11.9	12.2	14.8	15.2	15.3
Sheep and lambs	Dollars per					
Sheep	100 pounds					
Slaughter ewes, Good and Choice, Chicago	do.	5.53	4.50	5.92	5.00	4.06
Price received by farmers	do.	5.92	5.58	5.58	5.35	4.78
Lambs						
Slaughter, Choice, Chicago	do.	24.00	23.00	22.81	20.90	19.42
Feeder, Good and Choice, Omaha	do.	19.46	19.50	19.61	17.95	20.71
Price received by farmers	do.	19.90	19.40	19.90	18.30	17.40
All meat animals						
Index number price received by farmers (1910-14=100)		316	314	305	302	290
Meat						
Wholesale, Chicago	Dollars per					
Steer beef carcass, Choice, 500-600 pounds	100 pounds	45.63	44.65	44.05	43.58	42.71
Lamb carcass, Choice, 45-55 pounds	do.	48.59	46.50	47.08	45.42	43.22
Composite hog products:						
Including lard						
71.90 pounds fresh	Dollars	16.68	16.45	18.88	17.95	18.96
Average per 100 pounds	do.	23.20	22.88	26.26	27.47	26.37
71.01 pounds fresh and cured	do.	20.72	20.30	22.30	22.95	22.90
Average per 100 pounds	do.	29.18	28.59	31.40	32.32	32.25
Excluding lard						
55.99 pounds fresh and cured	do.	18.83	18.46	20.32	20.81	20.62
Average per 100 pounds	do.	33.63	32.97	36.29	37.17	36.83
Retail, United States average	Cents					
Beef, Choice grade	per pound	83.6	82.0	81.0	80.4	
Pork, excluding lard	do.	58.1	56.5	57.6	59.0	
Index number meat prices (BLS)						
Wholesale (1947-49=100)		99.8	95.0	97.3	98.8	96.6
Retail (1947-49=100) <u>4/</u>		118.1	115.8	115.8	116.0	117.0

1/ Average all weights and grades.2/ Chicago, St. Louis N. S. Y., Kansas City, Omaha, Sioux City, S. St. Joseph, S. St. Paul, and Indianapolis.3/ Number bushels of corn equivalent in value to 100 pounds of live hogs.4/ Includes beef and veal, pork, leg of lamb and other meats.

## Selected marketing, slaughter and stocks statistics for meat animals and meat

Item	Unit	1959		1960		
		July	August	June	July	August
Meat animal marketings						
Index number (1947-49=100) .....		115	123	125	112	
Stocker and feeder shipments to						
9 Corn Belt States	1,000					
Cattle and calves .....	head	328	442	301	249	388
Sheep and lambs .....	do.	219	429	205	190	474
Slaughter under Federal inspection						
Number slaughtered						
Cattle .....	do.	1,557	1,450	1,692	1,592	1,787
Steers .....	do.	895	797	941	879	
Heifers .....	do.	304	319	345	322	
Cows .....	do.	333	310	376	364	
Bulls and stags .....	do.	25	23	30	27	
Calves .....	do.	382	359	397	374	450
Sheep and lambs .....	do.	1,107	1,010	1,137	1,113	1,240
Hogs .....	do.	5,184	4,977	5,086	4,304	5,203
Percentage sows .....	Percent	15	14	12	13	
Average live weight per head						
Cattle .....	Pounds	1,033	1,026	1,021	1,012	
Calves .....	do.	233	222	237	236	
Sheep and lambs .....	do.	94	94	95	96	
Hogs .....	do.	243	235	246	246	
Average production						
Beef, per head .....	do.	596	593	588	583	
Veal, per head .....	do.	133	128	131	136	
Lamb and mutton, per head .....	do.	45	46	46	45	
Pork, per head .....	do.	138	135	141	141	
Pork, per 100 pounds live weight .....	do.	57	58	57	58	
Lard, per head .....	do.	36	33	35	34	
Lard, per 100 pounds live weight .....	do.	15	14	14	14	
Total production	Million					
Beef .....	pounds	925	857	993	926	
Veal .....	do.	51	46	52	51	
Lamb and mutton .....	do.	50	46	52	50	
Pork .....	do.	714	670	716	607	
Lard .....	do.	184	162	176	146	
Commercial slaughter <u>1/</u>						
Number slaughtered	1,000					
Cattle .....	head	2,035	1,897	2,197	2,065	
Calves .....	do.	600	590	625	605	
Sheep and lambs .....	do.	1,262	1,157	1,311	1,271	
Hogs .....	do.	6,155	5,914	6,097	5,173	
Total production	Million					
Beef .....	pounds	1,166	1,083	1,244	1,163	
Veal .....	do.	80	76	85	85	
Lamb and mutton .....	do.	57	52	60	57	
Pork .....	do.	842	792	852	723	
Lard .....	do.	206	184	198	166	
Cold storage stocks first of month <u>2/</u>						
Beef .....	do.	168	165	148	145	146
Veal .....	do.	10	8	8	8	8
Lamb and mutton .....	do.	17	17	10	12	13
Pork .....	do.	313	248	386	351	294
Total meat and meat products <u>3/</u> .....	do.	582	513	634	591	532

1/ Federally inspected, and other wholesale and retail.

2/ Cold storage stocks September 1 are as follows: Beef 151, veal 8, lamb and mutton 14, pork 219. and total meat and meat products 456.

3/ Includes stocks of canned meats in cooler in addition to the four meats listed.



## LIST OF TABLES

<u>Table No.</u>		<u>Page No.</u>
1	Farrowing intentions for early spring pigs and actual farrowings, percentage change from a year earlier, 1956 to date .....	5
2	Hog-corn price ratio during fall breeding season, United States and North Central Region, arrayed according to United States ratio, and number of sows farrowing following spring, 1924-60 .....	6
3	Distribution of farrowings and hog slaughter, by quarters, 1948 to date .....	7
4	Market receipts of slaughter steers and heifers and shipments of stocker and feeder cattle, 1960 compared with 1959 .....	9
5	Selected prices of livestock, by months, 1959 and 1960 .....	11
6	Average retail price of specified meat cuts, per pound, by months, 1957 to date .....	13
7	Cattle and hog slaughter, meat imports and stocks, and sausage production, by quarters 1959 to date and October-December 1960 forecast .....	15
8	Hogs: Indexes of seasonal variation 1950, 1955, and 1959 .....	17

## Standard Summary Tables

Supply and distribution of meat, April 1960 to date .....	23
Selected price statistics for meat animals and meat .....	24
Selected marketing, slaughter and stocks statistics for meat animals and meat .....	25

## LIST OF CHARTS

	<u>Page No.</u>
Pig crops and hog slaughter, Neg. 1701-60(9) .....	Cover
Beef cattle and lamb prices, Neg. 8073-60(9) .....	2
Meat production, Neg. 1698-60(9) .....	2
Hogs: Seasonal variation in farrowings, slaughter and prices, Neg. 8081-60(9) .....	17
Percentage of consumer's dollar spent for beef and pork, Neg. 1827-60(9) .....	20
Wholesale pork prices, Neg. 677A-59(12) .....	20
Retail prices and consumption of pork, Neg. 7623-60(9) .....	21

---

:  
: The next issue of The Livestock and Meat Situation is scheduled :  
: for release on November 15, 1960 :  
:

---



U. S. Department of Agriculture  
Washington 25, D. C .

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

**OFFICIAL BUSINESS**

**NOTICE**

If you no longer need this publication,  
check here ☐ return this sheet,  
and your name will be dropped from  
the mailing list.

If your address should be changed,  
write the new address on this sheet  
and return the whole sheet to:

Administrative Services Division (ML)  
Agricultural Marketing Service  
U. S. Department of Agriculture  
Washington 25, D. C.





